

Name: _____

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Read and answer the questions below.

1. Describe how ancient Mesoamerican societies had similar and different practices of human sacrifice.

2. Imagine you are an anthropologist and you find a burial site with 50 skeletons and a small statue of the god of sun. What could this burial site tell you about ancient civilizations?

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Teacher Key

1. Describe how ancient Mesoamerican societies had similar and different practices of human sacrifice.

Many Mesoamerican cultures used human sacrifice as a way to honor their gods. They wanted the gods to give them water and keep their people safe. Some Mesoamerican cultures had different ways of killing their sacrifices. Some burned or buried their sacrifices, while others ripped out their hearts.

2. Imagine you are an anthropologist and you find a burial site with 50 skeletons and a small statue of the god of sun. What could this burial site tell you about ancient civilizations?

This site suggests that the civilization practiced human sacrifice as a way to honor the god of the sun. It also suggests that the civilization cared about having a lot of sun, probably to help their crops grow.